

ROUGH DRAFT

Headquarters USAF
Washington 25, D. C.

CLASSIFICATION: Unclassified

TITLE: DISCOVERER SATELLITE SERIES; BIOMEDICAL LAUNCHES

TASK ORGANIZATION: Air Research and Development Command
Air Force Ballistic Missile Division
Strategic Air Command
Vandenberg Air Force Base
Military Air Transport Service
Air Photographic and Charting Service
Pacific Air Force

1. PURPOSE

To provide a standard procedural plan for information actions relative to Discoverer launches carrying biomedical specimens.

2. SITUATION

The biomedical experiments conducted as part of the Discoverer satellite series are designed to provide the Air Force with data on the response of animal specimens to the environment of space flight including data on the ability of the specimens to perform certain psychomotor tests during space flight which will serve as a basis for determining how well the pilot of the space craft will be able to perform the functions required of him. The biomedical experiments are conducted as an adjunct to the primary objectives of the satellite series which are to test launching techniques, propulsion, communications, orbital performance and recovery techniques required in the development of a series of satellite systems.

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3. INFORMATION OBJECTIVE

Inasmuch as the Air Force has resisted all efforts of the media to acquire advance information and photographic coverage of the various preparatory phases of the Discoverer biomedical program, it is the purpose of this plan to provide for the dissemination of maximum information about the biomedical portion of the Discoverer program, consistent with military security and propriety. Because of the special significance of the photographic coverage of these experiments, this plan will outline procedures whereby those media having a long lead time will have available still photo and/or motion picture coverage well in advance of the launching, for use on a "hold for launch" basis. This is considered to be in the best interests of the Air Force and the Department of Defense.

4. RESPONSIBILITIES

Under direction of the Secretary of Defense, the Department of the Air Force, through the Director of Information, is responsible for the implementation of this plan. The Department of the Navy, through the Commander, Pacific Missile Range, Point Mugu, California, will provide support as required by the Department of Defense.

5. INFORMATION ACTIONS

a. This plan will serve all Discoverer biomedical launchings at Vandenberg AFB and will be subject to amendments in the event of changing requirements. This plan will be implemented in five phases: (1) PREPARATION, (2) PRE-LAUNCH, (3) LAUNCH, (4) ORBIT, and (5) RECOVERY.

b. The AFMID Information Officer will serve as executive agent for SAFOI in implementing information action relative to this plan.

c. PHASE I - PREPARATION

(1) At T-5 days preceding each Discoverer biomedical launch, unless otherwise directed by SAFOI, media representatives will be notified of the upcoming launch on a "hold-for-release" basis, and fact sheets, still photo material and motion picture clips will be made available to the media for use on a "hold for launch" basis. SAFOI-LA will notify Los Angeles and San Diego media. The Information Officer, 6594th Test Wing (Satellite) will notify the San Francisco media. The Vandenberg Information Officer will notify local media including San Joaquin and Sacramento valleys. The Information Officer, Hq., PACAF will notify Hawaiian media. Media representatives in Washington will be serviced on the same basis concurrently with West Coast News Services, Department of Defense. The material to be placed with media on "hold for launch" basis will cover three phases of preparation:

- (1) the acquisition of and the care and training of American-born Rhesus monkeys as space flight specimens;
- (2) the Mark II Life Support System;
- (3) The Biomedical Test Program.

d. PHASE II - PRE-LAUNCH

(1) The Vandenberg AFB Information Center will be open to the press at T-4 hours. A pre-launch technical briefing will be conducted by AFMD project personnel on test objectives, assisted by key project personnel of the School of Aviation Medicine at the University of Texas -- USAF Radio-Biology Laboratory.

e. PHASE III - LAUNCH

(1) Live television and radio will be authorized for release on "fire-in-the-tail." However, no television or radio announcements pertaining to live coverage will be authorized prior to "fire-in-the-tail." "Hold-for-release-until-launch" applies to all media.

(2) If technical difficulties or weather conditions force a postponement of launch after the press reports to the Vandenberg Information Center, a brief announcement to that effect will be made. (Annex I, Page 1).

(3) As soon as practicable after launch, a brief confirmatory statement will be issued acknowledging that the launch has been accomplished. (Annex I, Page 2).

(4) A statement will be available for use in the event of explosion on the launch pad or other similar occurrence. (Annex I, Page 3).

(5) An announcement will be made as soon as practicable confirming second stage firing or announcing that 2nd stage has failed to separate or ignite. (Annex I, Pages 4 and 5).

(6) Provision will be made by the Vandenberg IO to inform SAFOI-3a of each of the above announcements, when and if made, in order that the Air Force Press Desk may service press queries in the Washington area.

f. PHASE IV - ORBIT

(1) As soon as practicable after launch (approximately T+2 hours) a press release containing all orbital data on the satellite will be prepared by the IO, Hq., AFEMD, and given to news media at the Vandenberg Press Center. Provision will be made by the AFEMD IO to service media in the Los Angeles area with the release. The AFEMD IO will also provide SAFOI-3a with the release prior to issuance in order that the Air Force press desk may service the press desk in Washington.

(2) Due to the fact that selection of the flight specimen from a group of three or more candidates may occur as late as T-12 hours,

or if selection is made earlier, substitution could occur up to T-12 hours, still and motion picture material on the selection, preparation, introduction of the specimen into the Mark II Life Support System, mating of the capsule re-entry vehicle and satellite vehicle will not be available to the press on a "hold-for-launch" basis. Therefore, this material will be acquired, prepared in release form and released as practicable after launch (approximately T+3 hours) which should be subsequent to announcement of orbit. If orbit is not achieved, this material will not be released.

(3) Arrangements will be made with the appropriate technical personnel to provide information to be prepared in press release form on the animal, which should include information on his respiration and electrocardiogram, information on the performance of the Life Support System indicating whether or not temperature, pressure, humidity, etc., are being properly maintained, and information as to whether or not we are acquiring the desired data via telemetry. This material should be made available to the press once prior to 2000 hours of the day of launch and again prior to 0800 hours on the day following launch.

g. PHASE V - RECOVERY

(1) The Chief, Office of Information, PACAF, will be responsible for logistic support and press handling in Hawaii, acting under the coordination of a representative of the Director of Information, AFBMD, who will be placed on TDY to Hickam AFB for that purpose. The AFBMD IO representative will obtain technical guidance from the Commanding Officer, 6594th Recovery Control Group and the senior representative of the AFBMD Director of Bio-Astronautics.

(2) An announcement will be made by the Chief, Office of Information, PACAF, that the 6594th Test Squadron has taken off from Hickam AFB in order to be in position should an aerial recovery attempt be made. This release will be handled in Los Angeles and Washington on an answer-to-query basis. AFBMD will be responsible for proper and timely notification to SAFOI-3a of release time.

(3) At recovery plus 30 minutes or earlier, a release on the initial successful recovery will be made in Hawaii. Word of initial recovery will be flashed from aircraft or naval unit participating to the 6594th Recovery Control Group, Hickam AFB, and thence to the AFBMD Information Representative for release action. The AFBMD representative also will be responsible for providing for notification of Hq., AFBMD-LA and SAFOI of successful recovery.

(a) Subsequent recovery releases will be made by the Chief, Office of Information, PACAF, under the direction of the AFBMD Information Officer at Hickam AFB.

(4) At Initial Recovery (Aerial) plus one hour, or soonest thereafter, a press conference will be held by appropriate Air Force officers in the Pentagon (DOD Radio-TV studio). Press conference will deal with significance of successful recovery operation and its effect upon future space operations. If warranted, Recovery press conference will be piped to AFBMD auditorium for benefit of the West Coast press. Arrangements to pipe conference to West Coast will be initiated by SAFOI-3e through ASD/PA Audio-Visual Branch.

(a) At Initial Recovery plus one hour, or soonest thereafter, recovery crew individual biographies and pictures will be provided for Pentagon press conference by SAFOI-3c.

(5) In the event of air recovery, no attempt will be made to open the capsule or examine the animal while the capsule is in flight. Upon landing, the capsule will be removed to a secure area where it will be opened and the condition of the animal will be determined. Medical attention will be given the animal, if necessary. At this time, a standard release will be made (See Annex I) either to the effect that the animal is in a satisfactory condition or that the animal did not survive the test. Both releases will contain a stock paragraph to the effect that no further information will be available until after a complete medical examination of the animal has been conducted. This may require a matter of hours or a matter of days, depending upon test results.

(6) (a) If the physical condition of the animal is such that exposure to the press will not endanger the test objectives, the press will be allowed to photograph the animal at this time. If, in the opinion of the AFMMD Bio-Astronautics representative, this is not feasible, but if the condition is such that exposure under controlled conditions to media representatives is permissible, these representatives will be selected on a pool basis, one each representing the wire services, the still photo medium, the TV and motion picture medium and the metropolitan press. If this exposure is not considered practicable, official USAF photographers will provide photographic coverage to be released in keeping with Annex II of this plan.

(b) Still pictures taken during recovery operation will be processed at Hickam AFB for immediate release provided the recovery aircraft landed at Hickam. All stills will be reviewed by a technical representative of the Discoverer project prior to release. Under no circumstances will any still photos of the recovery operation be released without

specific approval of the proper technical representative of the Discoverer project. The same procedure will be followed in the event air retrieval from the sea is accomplished. In the event of sea recovery by surface craft, the photographic documentation will be accomplished by the Navy which will include the opening of the capsule at sea by the Air Force bio-medical representative aboard, and the determination of the condition of the specimen will be dispatched by the fastest possible means to the CO, 6594th Recovery Control Group, Hickam AFB. Air snatch of photographic coverage from the recovery ship will be effected if practicable.

(c) Press media in Hawaii will be permitted to interview crew members after debriefing and to photograph recovery aircraft and crew. Externals of covered capsule being off-loaded and loaded on waiting aircraft will be permitted if action occurs in unrestricted area and if no delay in trans-shipment occurs.

(d) At Initial Recovery plus 48 hours or earlier, motion pictures taken of recovery operation will be released nationally by SAFOI-LA.

(e) If recovery is by sea, necessary photography of pick-up will be accomplished by the Navy. All still pictures will be delivered immediately to the PACAF Office of Information for security review and handling.

(f) Motion and still photography of aerial recovery operation will be accomplished by the Air Photographic and Charting Service. APCS cameramen will be assigned to each C-119.

(g) If aerial recovery is attempted and fails, an announcement will be made to that effect at Hickam AFB. Announcement will include confirmed re-entry data.

(h) If sea recovery fails, an announcement to that effect will be made by DOD, Washington. This announcement will include confirmed re-entry data and an evaluation of success of Discoverer _____ experiment.

6. CONTRACTOR PARTICIPATION

Contractors participating in the development, manufacture and test of equipment used in these experiments will be given appropriate recognition in connection with this program.. Contractor material will be submitted by the prime contractor to AFEMD for DOD approval.

7. COMMUNICATIONS

a. In order to answer press queries in Washington, a commercial telephone conference call will be initiated by SAFCI-3c to Hq, AFEMD, Los Angeles, so that SAFCI will be promptly informed of pertinent firing developments.

b. Provision will be made by Hq AFEMD for transmission by the most expeditious means to the Air Force Command Post, Pentagon, of information regarding Initial Recovery of the capsule. This will include the grade and name of the aircraft commander and the RFA of the aircraft at Hickam.

8. ADMINISTRATION

At the direction of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs) the Department of the Air Force (Director of Information) will supervise the implementation of this plan.

2 Inclosures

Annex I
Annex II

ANNEX I

POSTPONEMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

Vandenberg AFB, Calif. -- Launching of Discoverer _____
was (postponed) (cancelled) today (for technical reasons) (because
of unfavorable weather conditions). Launch preparations are
expected to be resumed as soon as (the readiness of the vehicle
permits) (weather conditions permit).

ANNEX I

FOR RELEASE IMMEDIATELY AFTER SUCCESSFUL LAUNCH

Vandenberg AFB, Calif. -- Discoverer _____ was successfully launched by the Air Force at _____ today. The vehicle consists of the Douglas THOR intermediate range ballistic missile as the booster, or first stage, and AGEM, a second stage produced by the Lockheed Aircraft Corporation.

ANNEX I

FOR RELEASE IMMEDIATELY AFTER UNSUCCESSFUL LAUNCH

Vandenberg AFB, Calif. -- Discoverer _____ (exploded on the pad) (exploded shortly after lift-off) (was destroyed by the range safety officer after it veered off course) today at _____.

ANNEX I

FOR RELEASE ON SUCCESSFUL FIRING OF SECOND STAGE

Vandenberg AFB, Calif. -- Preliminary telemetry reports indicate that the second stage of the Air Force Discoverer _____ satellite vehicle has fired. From one to two hours will be required to determine whether the correct velocity vector was achieved to place the satellite in orbit.

ANNEX I

FOR RELEASE IMMEDIATELY AFTER DETERMINATION THAT SECOND STAGE
SEPARATION AND/OR IGNITION FAILED

Vandenberg AFB, Calif. -- Telemetry reports indicated that
(the first and second stages of the Discoverer _____ satellite
vehicle failed to separate) (the second stage of the Discoverer
_____ vehicle failed to ignite). The vehicle burned up upon
re-entry approximately 1,000 miles down range.

ANNEX I

FOR RELEASE AFTER DETERMINATION THAT THE BIOLOGICAL SPECIMEN DID NOT
SURVIVE THE TEST

Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii -- the Air Force has announced that the five-pound Rhesus monkey orbited aboard DISCOVERER _____ and recovered from orbit this afternoon did not survive the experiment.

No information as to cause of death of specimen will be available until a detailed examination of the animal and reduction of telemetry data collected throughout the 27 hour orbital journey has been reduced.

The animal is being returned to the United States Air Force Satellite Test Center, Sunnyvale, California, for this purpose.

APPENDIX I

FOR RELEASE AFTER THE CAPSULE HAS BEEN OPENED AND THE ANIMAL HAS BEEN DETERMINED TO BE IN AN ACCEPTABLE CONDITION.

Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii -- The United States Air Force space monkey which completed 27 orbital circuits of the earth aboard the DISCOVERER _____ satellite, was successfully returned to earth completing his journey alive and in good condition.

Full information as to how the specimen reacted to his prolonged space trip will not be available for several days until after reduction of the telemetry data gathered during the test and a detailed physical examination of the specimen.

The first animal the United States has orbited and recovered, the five-pound Rhesus designated _____, will be returned immediately to the United States Air Force Satellite Test Center, Sunnyvale, California, where he will undergo a period of observation and examination.

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ANNEX II

DISCOVERER SERIES
INFORMATION PLAN
PHOTOGRAPHIC ANNEX

INDEX:

1. REQUIREMENTS
2. WHO ACCOMPLISHES FILM COVERAGE
3. PROCESSING
4. FILM PRODUCTION REQUIRED
5. STILL PHOTOGRAPHY
6. SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS
7. RELEASE OF PHOTOGRAPHY

1. REQUIREMENTS

a. Photographic coverage is separated into four phases as follows:

(1) Preparation - Adequate still photo and newsreel type motion picture documentation is required of the preparation phase which includes the acquisition handling and training of the flight specimens, the competency of the life support system and the biomedical test program carried on to insure compatibility of the animal with the life support system under simulated flight conditions.

(2) Pre-Launch - Still photo and newsreel type motion picture documentation is required of get-ready activities at Vandenberg AFB, Hickam AFB, and Kaena Point, Hawaii.

(3) Launch - Still photo and motion picture tracking coverage is required.

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(4) Recovery - Still photo and newsreel type motion picture documentation is required of recovery activities.

b. Film media:

- (1) 35mm color (ECN)
- (2) 35mm black and white)
- (3) 16mm black and white
- (4) Still color
- (5) Still black and white

2. WHO ACCOMPLISHES FILM COVERAGE

a. The Air Photographic and Charting Service (APCS) will accomplish (except in the case of paragraph 4a and 6c below), process (except in the case of paragraph 5a below), and deliver to designated agencies all required coverage outlined in this Annex.

b. Lockheed Missile Division will accomplish additional coverage as specified by AFEMD.

3. PROCESSING

a. Commander APCS will assure priority processing of all photographic materials, including overtime as required to meet disposition schedules established herein.

4. FILM PRODUCTION REQUIRED

a. Preparation Activities - A 16mm black and white clip will be assembled from coverage of the preparation activities. This is to include the acquisition handling and training of the animal, the MARK II Life Support System and the Biomedical Test Program. One each 16mm fine-grain master positive and one each 16mm black and white viewing print with complete captions will be in the hands of the offices listed below no later than five days prior to the scheduled launch:

- (1) SAFOI-3b
- (2) SAFOI Los Angeles
- (3) SAFOI New York
- (4) SAFOI Chicago
- (5) PacAF OI
- (6) 6594th Test Wing OI

b. This coverage is to be acquired by AFBMD through the facilities of APCS. Lockheed Missile and Space Division and Aerospace Corporation will assist in acquiring coverage as specified by AFBMD.

c. Class A Special Film Production - This will be a sound on film color documentation depicting the entire DISCOVERER Project. APCS will complete the production not later than three (3) months after completion of the final launch. Release print distribution will be specified by SAFOI-3b at a later date. Technical advisor to be furnished by AFBMD. AFBMD will submit the required AFM 95-15 film production request.

5. STILL PHOTOGRAPHY

a. AFBMD will:

(1) Receive all original transparencies and black and white negatives of pre-launch and preparation activities and all original color transparencies of launch activities.

(2) Select suitable photographs for release.

(3) Produce dupe color transparencies and Ex10 black and white glossy prints, appropriate captions and duplicate negatives as required.

(4) Immediately and expeditiously forward one set of the selected prints and dupe negatives with captions to: FASOI-3b, SAFOI-LA, SAFOI-NY, SAFOI-Chicago, VAFFS-OL, PacAF-OI and ARDC.

(5) Immediately upon meeting its most pressing needs, but not

later than five days after launch, AFBMD will forward all original material with captions to SAFOI-3b for inclusion in the official Air Force photo depository.

b. VAFB-OI will:

(1) Select suitable black and white photographs of launch activities for release.

(2) Order production of 6x10 black and white glossy prints, appropriate captions and duplicate negatives as required.

(3) Immediately and most expeditiously forward one set of selected prints and negatives with captions to: SAFOI-3b, SAFOI-1A, AFBMD, PACAF-OI, and ARDC.

(4) Immediately upon meeting its most pressing needs, but not later than five days after launch, VAFB-OI will forward all original material with captions to SAFOI-3b for inclusion in the official Air Force photo depository.

c. PACAF-OI will:

(1) Select suitable photographs for release. All stills will be reviewed by a qualified technical representative of the DISCOVERER Project and the AFBMD Information representative.

(2) Order production of dupe transparencies and 6x10 black and white glossy prints, appropriate captions and negatives as required.

(3) Immediately and most expeditiously forward one set of selected prints and original negatives with captions to AFBMD.

(4)

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(4) Immediately and most expeditiously AFEMD will forward one set of selected print and dupe negatives with captions to SAFOI-3b, SAFOI-1A, SAFOI-NY, SAFOI-Chicago and AFDC.

d. In the event recovery aircraft lands at a Pacific base other than Hawaii, both still and motion picture material will be sent by most expeditious means to California. All material will be forwarded to AFEMD. AFEMD-OI will:

(1) Select photographs for release subject to review by a qualified technical representative of the DISCOVERER Project.

(2) Order production of dupe transparencies and 6x10 black and white glossy prints, appropriate captions and negatives as required.

(3) Immediately forward one set of selected prints and negatives with captions to: SAFOI-3b, SAFOI-1A, SAFOI-NY, SAFOI-Chicago, VAFB, PACAF-OL, and AFDC.

(4) Immediately upon meeting its most pressing needs, but not later than five days after recovery phase, AFEMD will forward all original still photo material to SAFOI-3b for inclusion in the official Air Force photo depository.

(5) See 6b below for handling of motion picture film.

6. SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

a. Launch. APCB will provide one 35mm black and white and one 16mm black and white motion picture tracking item of the launch. This material will be delivered unprocessed to SAFOI-1A. SAFOI-1A will make appropriate disposition as required by SAFOI-3b.

b. Recovery. Because of the critical weight limitations of recovery aircraft, only one cameraman may accompany each aircraft.

This campaign will expose 35mm motion picture color and still color. Motion picture color will be expedited to AFPMI for security review processing, rough editing, and subsequent distribution. Three fine-grain and black and white master positives will be delivered to SAFOI-1A which will most expeditiously forward one copy to SAFOI-3b and one to PACAF-OI.

c. Navy. In the event recovery is accomplished by the Navy, such activity will be photographed by personnel of that service. Unprocessed still material will, however, be immediately delivered to PACAF-OI for handling as outlined in 5c above and 7b below. Unprocessed motion picture film will be handled as in 6b above.

7. RELEASE OF PHOTOGRAPHY

a. SAFOI-3b will:

(1) Pool motion picture material outlined in 4a above with all interested film agencies through the Department of Defense on a "Hold For Launch" basis.

(2) Clear still photo material outlined in 5a above and advise AFMID which photos will make up "HOLD FOR LAUNCH" press kit.

(3) Coordinate with Department of Defense, SAFOI-1A and AFPMI the release of recovery phase motion picture through Department of Defense.

b. PACAF-OI will release selected black and white still photos of recovery phase at 3 plus one hour. Also color transparencies to agencies having a justified use for color.

c. WAFB-OI will make "on the spot" release of selected black and white still photos.

d. SAFOI-1A will:

d. (continued)

(1) Release unprocessed 16mm black and white motion pictures of launch activities immediately following launch.

(2) Release 35mm black and white motion pictures of recovery phase in coordination with SAFOI-3b.

e. AFBAD will

(1) Release selected color transparencies of launch activities to agencies having a justified use for color.

(2) In the event Paragraph 5d above becomes applicable, AFBAD will immediately release selected black and white photos, and dupe transparencies to agencies having a justified use for color.